

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please substitute the following claims for the pending claims with the same number:

1 Claims 1-11 (canceled)

2 12. A method for limiting the operational life of software in a network
3 environment, the method comprising:

4 ~~providing transmitting~~ a program applet with a password
5 embedded therein ~~from a server computer to a client-computer computer~~, via
6 a network, the password having a limited operational life;

7 ~~receiving by the server computer~~, from said program applet ~~at the~~
8 ~~client computer~~, via said ~~network network~~, (i) a request for information stored in a
9 restricted access storage area of ~~a the~~ server computer, and (ii);

10 ~~automatically receiving by the server computer~~, from said
11 ~~program applet at the client computer~~, said embedded password ~~without manual~~
12 ~~entry of the password by a user~~, for authentication, ~~whenever said receiving~~
13 ~~occurs~~;

14 authenticating said embedded password by the server computer
15 ~~and not by the program applet~~, whenever said receiving occurs;

16 thereafter ~~providing transmitting~~ said information ~~from the server~~
17 ~~computer~~, to said program applet ~~at the client computer~~, via said ~~network~~
18 ~~network~~, while said embedded password is valid; and

19 invalidating said embedded password ~~by the server computer~~,
20 coincident with an invalidation event.

1 13. (previously presented) A method according to claim 12 wherein said
2 invalidating comprises invalidating said embedded password at a predetermined
3 time.

1 14. (previously presented) A method according to claim 12 wherein said
2 invalidating comprises invalidating said embedded password after lapse of a
3 predetermined time from when said request was received.

1 15. (previously presented) A method according to claim 12 wherein said
2 invalidating comprises invalidating said embedded password upon the detection
3 of a loss of communication with said client.

1 16. (canceled)

1 17. (canceled)

1 18. (currently amended) A method according to claim 12 wherein said
2 ~~providing-transmitting a program applet~~ comprises generating said embedded
3 password.

1 Claims 19-26 (canceled)

2 27. (currently amended) A network-based software authentication system
3 comprising a server computer, the server computer comprising:

4 a password generator;
5 password validation apparatus;
6 a restricted-access storage area;
7 a program applet; and
8 invalidation apparatus;

9 wherein said server computer is operative to:

10 a) cause said password generator to generate a password, the
11 password having a limited operational life;

12 b) embed said password within said program applet, and ~~provide~~
13 transmit said program applet with said password embedded therewithin to a client
14 computer via a network;

15 c) receive from said program applet at the client computer, (i) a
16 request for information-and, and (ii), whenever information requested is stored in
17 the restricted access storage area, automatically receive said embedded password,
18 from said program applet via said network, for authentication, without manual
19 entry of the password by a user;

20 d) authenticate said embedded password using said password
21 validation apparatus ~~and not by said program applet~~, whenever information
22 requested is stored in the restricted-access storage area;

23 e) ~~provide-transmit~~ said information to said program applet at the
24 client computer, via said ~~network~~ network, while said embedded password is
25 valid; and

26 f) invalidate said embedded password using said invalidation
27 apparatus coincident with an invalidation event.

1 28. (original) A system according to claim 27 wherein said invalidation event
2 comprises the arrival of a predetermined time.

1 29. (previously presented) A system according to claim 27 wherein said
2 invalidation event comprises the lapsing of a predetermined time from when said
3 request was received.

1 30. (original) A system according to claim 27 wherein said invalidation event
2 comprises the detection of a loss of communication with said client.

1 31. (canceled)

1 32. (canceled)

1 33. (canceled)